

# Region 6 Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter

April 2007

Volume 2, Number 4

## In This Issue

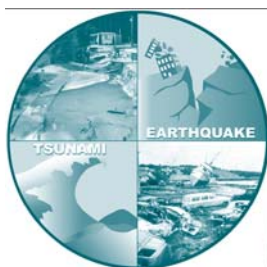
- April is National Earthquake Preparedness Month
- New WA Poison Center Medical Director
- New American Board of Disaster Medicine
- HHS Launches New On-Line Toolkit for Medical Responses to Radiation Emergencies
- What Hospitals Should Do to Prepare for an Influenza Pandemic
- HRSA Issues Draft Guidance Clarifying Health Center Liability in Emergencies
- King County Healthcare Coalition Updates
- Training Opportunities
- Upcoming Conferences
- Upcoming Exercises

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## April is National Earthquake Preparedness Month

**April 24, 2007 is the WA State Earthquake and Tsunami Statewide Drill – take this opportunity to practice Drop, Cover and Hold! The drill runs from 9:45 AM to 10:00 AM.**



Worldwide, each year there are about 18 earthquakes with magnitudes of 6.7 or greater. Most large earthquakes occur on long fault zones around the margin of the Pacific Ocean. Geologically, earthquakes around the Pacific Rim are normal and expected. There are several things you can do to prepare your home and family for an earthquake. The seismology lab at the University of Washington records roughly 1,000 earthquakes per year in Washington and Oregon. Between one and two dozen of these cause enough ground shaking to be felt by residents. Most are in the Puget Sound region, and few cause any damage. However, based on the history of past damaging earthquakes and our understanding of the geologic history of the Pacific Northwest, scientists are certain that damaging earthquakes (magnitude 6 or greater) will recur in our area, although there is no way to predict whether this is more likely to be today or years from now. Take the month of April to prepare your home and family for an earthquake!

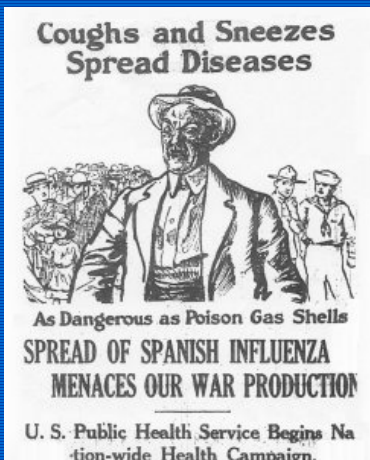
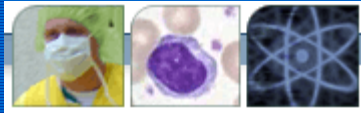
## NEW Washington Poison Center Medical Director



### William T. Hurley, MD, FACEP

Dr. Hurley was appointed as the new Medical Director of the Washington Poison Center in March 2007 after serving as an Associate Medical Director since 1991. He is also an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine and an Attending Physician at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Dr. Hurley received his medical degree from the University of Colorado in Denver, did his Emergency Medicine Residency through the U.S. Army at Madigan Army Medical Center, and was a Toxicology Fellow at the University of California, San Francisco. He is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine and Medical Toxicology. Dr. Hurley practiced in the U.S. Army for ten years, including directing the Emergency Medicine Residency program at Madigan Army Medical Center and serving in Iraq and Somalia. He practiced Community Emergency Medicine for 12 years at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, directing the Emergency Department for six years and directing a training program for physicians and nurses in team communication and coordination skills.





A warning posted in a 1918 issue of the New York Times

## NEW American Board of Disaster Medicine

The American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS) determined that a new board of certification in disaster medicine should be an integral component of a national disaster preparedness strategy. Therefore, the ABPS has organized and is developing our nation's first such certifying board, the American Board of Disaster Medicine. The goal of the American Board of Disaster Medicine is to foster, coordinate, build, and facilitate partnerships between disaster medicine specialists and all levels of government and the private sector.

For the full article, please visit:

[http://www.abpsga.org/certification/abodm\\_announcement.html](http://www.abpsga.org/certification/abodm_announcement.html)



## HHS Launches New Online Toolkit for Medical Responses to Radiation Emergencies

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt recently announced the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed a new downloadable online diagnostic and treatment toolkit designed for healthcare providers, primarily physicians, who may have to provide medical care during a radiation incident.

The new information package includes easy-to-follow procedures for diagnosis and management of radiation contamination and exposure, guidance for the use of radiation medical countermeasures, and a variety of other features to facilitate medical responses. All of this is now available on the Radiation Event Medical Management (REMM) Web site (<http://REMM.NLM.GOV>).

## What Hospitals Should Do to Prepare for an Influenza Pandemic

Center for Biosecurity, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Toner and Waldhorn, *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism* Volume 4, Number 4, 2006

This article offers recommendations on what hospitals should do to prepare for an influenza pandemic and proposes specific actions and priorities for the purpose of making the discussion of hospital pandemic preparedness issues more operationally useful. Although we may not agree with every recommendation discussed, this is a very useful overview of key issues that Coalition healthcare facilities should be working on and contains much useful information.

The full article can be found at: [http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/resources/publications/2006\\_orig-articles/2006-12-15-perspectivewhathospitalsshoulddo.html](http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/resources/publications/2006_orig-articles/2006-12-15-perspectivewhathospitalsshoulddo.html)

## HRSA Issues Draft Guidance Clarifying Health Center Liability in Emergencies

The Health Resources and Services Administration is accepting

comments through May 31 on draft guidance clarifying the scope of medical liability coverage provided under the Federal Torts Claims Act to federally supported health centers and their employees during emergencies. The guidance applies to more than 3,800 federally supported community health centers, migrant health centers, health care for the homeless centers, and public housing primary care centers and their employees, who are immune under the FTCA from medical liability suits for actions within the scope of their project and employment. The agency said it developed the guidance in response to numerous requests to clarify the scope of FTCA coverage during emergencies. The guidance document can be found at: <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/draftsforcomment/ftcaemergency.htm>

## King County Healthcare Coalition



The King County Healthcare Coalition is a network of healthcare organizations and providers that are committed to strengthening the healthcare system for emergencies. The following workgroups currently meet as part of the King County Healthcare Coalition to address preparedness issues in the healthcare community.

### Workgroup & Committee Updates

Outlined below are current updates for some of the King County Healthcare Coalition committees and workgroups. Please consult the Healthcare Coalition website for additional information.

Committee/Workgroup	Staff
Healthcare Coalition Development	Cynthia Dold, 206-205-0456 <a href="mailto:Cynthia.dold@metrokc.gov">Cynthia.dold@metrokc.gov</a>
Healthcare Coalition Administrative Staff	Lydia Ortega, 206-296-5079 <a href="mailto:Lydia.ortega@metrokc.gov">Lydia.ortega@metrokc.gov</a>
Ambulatory Care Committee	Aimee Welch, 206-205-4145 <a href="mailto:aimee.welch@metrokc.gov">aimee.welch@metrokc.gov</a>
Alternate Care Facilities	Tony Cebellero, 206-205-8621 <a href="mailto:Anthony.Cebollero@metrokc.gov">Anthony.Cebollero@metrokc.gov</a>
Critical Care Workgroup	Lewis Robinson, MD, 206-205-5091 <a href="mailto:lewis.rubinson@metrokc.gov">lewis.rubinson@metrokc.gov</a>
Hospital Emergency Prep Committee	Danica Mann, 206-947-5565 <a href="mailto:Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org">Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org</a>
Infectious Disease Workgroup	Jeff Duchin, MD, <a href="mailto:Jeff.duchin@metrokc.gov">Jeff.duchin@metrokc.gov</a>
Legal Workgroup	Amy Eiden, 206-206-8969 <a href="mailto:amy.eiden@metrokc.gov">amy.eiden@metrokc.gov</a>
Medical Director's Committee	Jeff Duchin, MD, <a href="mailto:Jeff.duchin@metrokc.gov">Jeff.duchin@metrokc.gov</a>
Puget Sound Call Center Coordination	Joe Cropley, 206-517-2383 <a href="mailto:cropley@wapc.org">cropley@wapc.org</a>
Regional Medical Resource Center	Allison Schletzbaum, 206-731-6213 <a href="mailto:aschletz@u.washington.edu">aschletz@u.washington.edu</a>

## Upcoming Meetings

- Critical Care Task Force Meeting: April 3, 2007  
2.30 – 4.00 PM
- RMRC Software Demonstrations: April 5, 2007  
8.00 AM – 5.00 PM
- Pharmaceutical Task Force: April 10, 2007  
8.30 – 10.30 AM
- Hospital Strategy Group: April 12, 2007  
7.30 – 10.00 AM
- Palliative Care Workgroup: April 19, 2007  
7:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- Legal Workgroup Meeting: April 20, 2007  
10.00 AM – 12.00 PM
- Pediatric Workgroup April 24, 2007  
7.00 AM - 8.30 AM
- Medical Director's Meeting: April 25, 2007  
3.00 PM – 5.00 PM
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee: April 26, 2007  
7.30 AM – 10.00 AM

The Healthcare Coalition meeting calendar for 2007 is also available on the website: [www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/index.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/index.htm)

### Ambulatory Care Preparedness Work Group (ACPWG)

- The Ambulatory Care Workgroup is developing several distribution lists comprised of operational & decision making contacts to aid communications during emergency events. Please send relevant contact information to Aimee Welch [aimee.welch@metrokc.gov](mailto:aimee.welch@metrokc.gov)
- Current planning efforts are focused on antiviral distribution protocols for pandemic influenza, exploration and development of power restoration protocols for ambulatory care providers and communications protocols.
- The workgroup will have a table display and will be recruiting new members at the Ambulatory Care Nurses Conference in Seattle in April of 2007

### Critical Care Work Group

- Limited critical care surge capacity in the region continues to be a major concern for adequate medical response to a number of plausible disaster events. A task force is being assembled to develop draft recommendations for standardized critical care surge capacity for King County Healthcare Coalition hospitals.
- Based on the work of several national panels, the task force will address emergency modifications in scope of critical care, staffing, and treatment locations to optimize the response to mass casualty critical care events.
- The task force is still recruiting critical care nurses who hold supervisory positions within their institution. If interested in participating, please contact Lewis Robinson at [Lewis.Robinson@metrokc.gov](mailto:Lewis.Robinson@metrokc.gov) for additional information.
- In addition, a second task force is being assembled by Dr. Mark Tonelli to provide recommendations for triage and critical care resource allocations for use when critical care surge capacity processes are insufficient to meet need. There will be a number of future opportunities for public and healthcare worker input on the task forces' recommendations.

### Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

- The hospitals just completed evacuation workshops. The workshops were well attended by hospitals, Fire, EMS, and other partners. Opportunities to practice using evacuation equipment were provided as well as templates to assist the hospitals in updating their internal evacuation plans.
- The Exercise Design Team is working diligently toward creating a comprehensive exercise for May 30, 2007. The exercise will meet JCAHO requirements as well as HRSA Grant requirements. The exercise will run parallel to the Zone 1 Cascade Foothills exercise, allowing hospitals to interact with their local Emergency Operations Centers.







### **Legal Work Group**

- The workgroup is documenting state laws that could affect deployment of personnel during an emergency, including laws that provide certain protections for volunteers during an emergency and laws about licensing of health care professionals.
- The group also is tracking a bill in the state legislature that addresses immunity for volunteers during an emergency. The bill is **SB 5054 / HB 1073**.

### **Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)**

- The Telecommunications Service Priority application was submitted to the federal government March 12, 2007. The application included 427 circuits and 10 health systems.
- Work has begun on evaluating linen supplier interdependencies in Western Washington, to include work with utility companies on priority power restoration for these facilities.
- Proposals in response to the software RFP were received in late February and software demos have been scheduled for early April. A recommendation should be available from the committee shortly after the demos.

### **Alternate Facilities Project**

- Planning efforts continue regarding alternate care facilities (ACF) which may be used during emergencies and disasters. These facilities may provide shelter for patients with chronic medical needs who cannot be at home or at long-term care facilities due to the emergency and whose medical needs are too resource-intensive to be safely cared for in traditional Red Cross shelters. In addition, during some disasters, ACFs may provide urgent care, prescription renewal services, and sustained, non-complex care for patients transitioning from traditional inpatient wards.
- Tours of Key Arena and McCaw Hall helped to rate each facility as a potential ACF site.

### **King County Call Center Project**

- Joe presented a comprehensive overview of the call center project to Seattle and King County Public Health Business Leadership Circle, the Healthcare Coalition Executive Council, and the Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee.
- The first cross county meeting to discuss call center coordination with both Pierce and Snohomish health departments will convene soon.
- The first successful test of Seattle and King County Public Health's ability to roll over surge calls to The Crisis Clinic, 211, and the Poison Center during the March 20th OEM pandemic flu exercise was successfully completed.





## Training Opportunities

*Note: The following list of available training opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each training.*

### **The Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Team Course April 2-6, 2007 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**

*This 5-day course provides team-specific training designed to prepare its members to better serve their local communities with the capability to manage large scale or complex emergency incidents*

### **Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) \***

**April 26 & 27, 2007**

*Attendees learn how to properly implement HICS into their facility while incorporating critical elements of NIMS. All program content will be presented to "train the trainer".*

Presented by: American Society for Healthcare Engineering of the American Hospital Association

Location: Portland, OR

Cost: Starts at \$625

To Register: Visit <https://register.rcsreg.com/regos-1.0/hics2007/ga/index2.html>

### **Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) Provider Course**

**April 28, 2007**

Presented by: American Burn Association

Location: Harborview Medical Center

Cost: Starts at \$185

For More Information: Contact Katie Warner, (206) 731-8477 or [twillega@u.washington.edu](mailto:twillega@u.washington.edu)

### **ERTI Decontamination Train the Trainer\***

**May 16-18, 2007 & August 28-30, 2007**

Presented by: WSHA

Cost: No Cost

To Register: Contact Peggi Shapiro at [peggis@wsa.org](mailto:peggis@wsa.org)

*As in past years, there are also four-hour "refresher" training opportunities available, as agreed to between ERTI and the hospital facility. Examples include: decontamination system set-up/take-down, PPE donning/doffing, WMD information, or site management walk-through. These are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your request in as soon as possible. Contact Chris Orkiolla [c.orkiolla@erti.org](mailto:c.orkiolla@erti.org) or Roger Bianchi [r.bianchi@erti.org](mailto:r.bianchi@erti.org) to arrange.*



#### Legend:

\* Indicates course is eligible for reimbursement through HRSA funding

\*\* Indicates course is eligible for reimbursement through Homeland Security funding.

For questions regarding the reimbursement processes, please contact Danica Mann at [Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org](mailto:Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org)

## Upcoming Conferences

*Note: The following list of available conference opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each conference.*

### **Surge Capacity Planning for Hospitals \***

**April 18-20, 2007**

Location: Radisson Hotel and Suites, Chicago IL

Cost: Starts at \$895

To Register: Call 800-647-7600 or 781-939-2438

For more information, visit [www.worldrg.com](http://www.worldrg.com)



### ***WAMI 2007 - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Trauma Conference***

May 30 & 31, 2007

Sponsored by: Harborview Medical Center

Location: Sheraton Seattle Hotel

Cost: Starts at \$120

To Register: Visit [www.harborview.org](http://www.harborview.org)

### ***What's New in Medicine 2007? Medicine – Infectious Disease Continuing Medical Education Conference***

June 8 & 9, 2007

Location: Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick WA

Cost: Starts at \$40

To Register: Contact Marlene Chua at [jmchua@verizon.net](mailto:jmchua@verizon.net) or call (509) 547-9737 x225

### ***Crisis Management and Emergency Preparedness\****

June 11–12, 2007 & June 16–17, 2008

Location: Talaris Conference Center - Seattle, WA

Cost: Starts at \$730

This two-day course is designed for managers and senior professionals in public, nonprofit, and private institutions. The course combines lectures, case-study analysis, presentations by leading practitioners, and open class discussion.

For More Information: Contact the Cascade Center for Public Service and Leadership: [cascade@u.washington.edu](mailto:cascade@u.washington.edu)

### ***Washington State Fire Chiefs HazMat and Special Operations Conference\****

June 18-21, 2007

Location: Wenatchee, WA

A special healthcare track will be offered on the 18th and 19th, including a regional panel on hospital disaster readiness "best Practices", HICS presentation, and internationally recognized Dr's Igor Shafhid and Pinhas Halpern.

For More Information: Contact Peggi Shapiro at WSHA at [peggis@wsa.org](mailto:peggis@wsa.org)

### ***Pandemic Influenza Community Preparedness Planning \****

July 18 – 20, 2007 *Save The Date*

Location: Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington DC

For More Information: [www.ama-assn.org/go/pandemicflu](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/pandemicflu)

### ***Tribal Emergency Preparedness Conference***

August 9-10, 2007

Location: Red Lion Hotel – Jantzen Beach, Portland OR

Cost: No cost

For More Information: Contact Tacey Casey at [tcasey@npaihb.org](mailto:tcasey@npaihb.org)

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## **Upcoming Exercises**

### ***Cascade Foothills, Functional Exercise – May 30, 2007***

Zone 1 will activate its Zone Coordination Center (ZCC) in response to a simulated earthquake. Coordination among local EOCs is the primary objective of the exercise. Cities within Zone 1 as well as Zone 3 will be participating in this exercise. It will run parallel to the Hospital Evacuation Exercise to provide an opportunity to practice more direct coordination. For more information contact Mike Ryan, Zone 1 Emergency Planner at [MRyan@ci.bellevue.wa.us](mailto:MRyan@ci.bellevue.wa.us)



### ***Region 6 Hospital Emergency Response Exercise – May 30, 2007***

All hospitals in King County/Region 6 will be participating in an evacuation exercise in May based on an earthquake, with evacuation as the primary focus. Region 6 hospitals will use the exercise to fulfill the HRSA grant exercise requirement. For more information on this exercise please contact Danica Mann at [Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org](mailto:Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org)

### ***TOPOFF4 – Portland OR***

TopOff (Top Officials) is a congressionally mandated counterterrorism program, and exercises are held every two years. The TopOff 4 exercise will be held in Portland, Ore., and Guam in 2007 and follows a preliminary exercise held in June last year called TopOff 4 Command Post Exercise which involved more than 4,000 people from more than 85 federal, state, local and private industry organizations. That exercise for the first time also included Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to test the coordination capabilities of the various participants. The lessons learned from that event will be carried through into this year's exercise. Like its predecessors, the fourth Top Officials exercise is intended to test the nation's readiness to deal with a large-scale terrorist attacks. This time, the exercise will test the department's public communications strategy.

### ***Public Information Call Center After Action Report***

Public Health Seattle and King County has posted the After Action Report from their Public Information Call Center, Pandemic Influenza Exercise. The After Action Report can be found at:

[www.metrokc.gov/health.pandemicflu/training/](http://www.metrokc.gov/health.pandemicflu/training/)



### ***Windstorm 2006 – After Action Report***

The Healthcare Coalition After Action Report is available in draft form. All information provided in the ESF-8 debrief on January 19, 2007 has been included as well as an improvement plan matrix for regional issues. The final draft has been sent to Healthcare Coalition constituents for review. Contact Danica Mann at (206) 947-5565 or [Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org](mailto:Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org) with any questions.

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## **About this Newsletter**

This publication will be sent monthly via email. Please feel free to share resources through this newsletter. To subscribe or to submit information to share, please contact Lydia Ortega at [Lydia.ortega@metrokc.gov](mailto:Lydia.ortega@metrokc.gov)

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